



**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD**

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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25 CENTS

South African Repression Hit

Following the latest wave of protests by black workers in South Africa, picket lines have sprung up at South African consulates and embassies throughout the US.

More than 300 marchers demonstrated outside the South African consulate in Chicago December 6th, demanding the release of imprisoned South African unionists and an end to apartheid. Similar demonstrations have taken place almost daily since November 21st, with hundreds of demonstrators protesting in Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, and Washington DC.

And in San Francisco, longshoremen refused for 10 days to handle South African cargo aboard the Nedlloyd *Kimberly*, in an action which was ended December 4th in the face of an injunction. The action was undertaken after the membership of ILWU Local 10 voted last October to refuse to handle South African cargo aboard the next Nedlloyd ship to hit port. Union bureaucrats reportedly undercut this decision by repeatedly dispatching longshoremen to finish unloading the ship, who were then fired when they refused to break the union ban. These workers face possible suspension ("beaching") and fines, and it is not clear whether the union—which set them up for the victimization in the first place by dispatching workers to do work it had decided was not to be done—will defend them. In arbitration hearings over the action, the union reportedly took the position that the Pacific Maritime Association (the bosses' association) should penalize and fine individual members instead of the union.

More than 500 marchers, carrying signs protesting South Africa's racist and anti-labor oppression, paraded outside the South African embassy in Washington DC December 4th, in a demonstration featuring substantial participation from unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Three AFL-CIO officials were arrested at that demonstration when they attempted to meet with South African officials to protest the regime's imprisonment of 21 black South African unionists jailed for their part in organizing a nationwide strike last November (see article last issue).

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, at least 50 persons have been arrested in this country for protests ranging from attempts to meet with South African officials (and refusal to leave embassy or consulate grounds until allowed to do so) to blockading the New York consulate. Demonstrations and arrests continue, almost on a daily basis. Among those arrested have been long-time civil-rights activists, politicians, and labor leaders.

In apparent response to these demonstrations, South Africa released 11 detainees—including labor leaders and political activists—without charging them, and granted another five bail. Among those released without charges were the president of the Federation of Southern African Trade Unions (FOSATU) and the general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa—two of the



Pickers march outside the South African embassy to protest the repression of black unionists. Dozens of like actions have taken place in the US since late November.

A wave of illegal strikes by black workers over the last decade threatens to topple South Africa's Government.

part in organizing boycotts of the recent "elections" designed to put a "democratic" veneer over the regime's continued racist policies. Nearly 200 people were killed in demonstrations during the last three months of 1984 protesting the institution of the new South African constitution, which grants the black majority no rights, but seeks to buy off "colored" and Indian minorities with token participation.

Meanwhile, South African blacks continue to organize labor unions to fight both for better conditions on the job and for a just society. International labor solidarity is urgently necessary to aid these struggles and to prevent the South African regime from unleashing a new wave of terrorism against the black majority.

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most conservative black union federations in South Africa today.

The five released on bail face charges of economic sabotage, and are scheduled to stand trial January 21st. Their prosecution is expected to lead to further labor unrest and add fuel to the continuing anti-apartheid demonstrations in the US and around the world. And three South African anti-apartheid activists who had been seeking refuge in the British consulate in Durban surrendered to police in mid-December and were immediately arrested. Two face charges of treason for their

US Bosses Kill 3100 of Us

Some 3100 workers were killed on the job in the US during 1983, according to a Labor Department report. Most of the deaths occurred in the construction, manufacturing, transportation, and public-utilities industries. Occupational Health and Safety Administration head Robert Rowland was quick to credit Reagan Administration policies for this "gratifying" report. (Death rates were down somewhat from 1982 levels.)

By way of contrast, the CIA estimates that the total number of deaths attributable to terrorism throughout the world from 1968 to 1980 amounted to 3,668—only a few hundred more than the body count from a single year in US workplaces.

While some may find it "gratifying" that the bosses killed "only" 3100 of us on the job, however, these victims of the class war—slaughtered in the quest for higher profits—and their families see the situation somewhat differently. And this figure does not include the slow and torturous murders of tens of thousands more by deadly chemicals and the like.

Some 106,000 other fellow workers were reported suffering from job-related illnesses in 1983—a figure including only new acute cases of illness reported by employers, and not chronic or long-latent job illnesses like cancer.

When a worker loses a finger, an eye, or a life on the job, it's put down as an "accident". But it's actually nothing of the sort; it's assault and murder in defense of profits. What are commonly called accidents have causes and can be prevented, but their prevention costs money and cuts into company profits. So every year workers die and are maimed needlessly.

This state of affairs can only be ended when workers organize world-wide and decide that we will no longer tolerate the murder and mutilation of our fellow workers in the endless search for profits.

TAIWANESE MINERS KILLED IN CAVE-INS

About noon on December 5th, 96 men were working 7500 feet inside the Haishan Yikeng coal pit near Taipei, Taiwan when a series of cave-ins shook Tunnel Number 1. After about 10 hours, rescuers had located one badly-injured survivor and 27 bodies, all badly burned. Several of the hundred rescue workers, many of them miners from nearby pits, were knocked unconscious by carbon-monoxide gas as they struggled to clear debris from the shaft, and were hospitalized. Several days after the cave-ins two other survivors had been found, with 90 known dead and three missing and presumed dead.

The mine had passed a government safety inspection two months earlier and was known as "one of the safest" mines in Taiwan. It was one of the 120 coal mines left working on the island after the Government closed more than 80 earlier in 1984 for safety violations. The Government began a crackdown on mine-safety violations after two earlier mine disasters: one that killed 74 men in June and another that killed 103 in July—the country's worst mine accident.

Caution: Women at Work

Before World War I, white women (except in the garment and textile industries) tended to send their kids to work and stay home to raise more. In the 1920s they started sending the kids to school, and with the advent of World War II they increasingly tended to go to work outside the home. Now women in office jobs—their leading occupation—find new technologies threatening either to eliminate the need for them or to wire their work to offices miles away. This adds to the pressure

for them to enter non-traditional fields.

Four years ago, women in Toledo formed WITCH (Women in Construction Hats) to fight the practices that keep them out of construction apprenticeships and jobs. In 1977 Appalachian women founded the Coal Employment Project at a time when "97.8% of all people in the coal industry, including secretaries and file clerks, were men". The next spring they lodged "massive class-action complaints against the 153 companies that produced half the nation's coal". The United Mine Workers Association switched from its ancient opposition to employment of women underground, and in June of 1985 the UMWA Women Miners' Conference will meet in Price, Utah—an area where both unionism and women's right to work in mines need a boost.

About 1% of the UMWA membership is now female, and their 1984 convention adopted the demand for a maternity/paternity-leave clause in standard contracts. For years women battled for better conditions in coal mining, even though they didn't work in the mines. (Remember the marches that Mother Jones organized.) Last summer, when Gilbertson Coal, an anthracite producer, decided to go non-union and held up paychecks for the vacation time and unused personal days provided by the old contract, the wives of the miners got TV and newspaper coverage by parading outside the company offices. The company released the checks, but the union has had to make that outfit one of its "selective strike" targets.

Contaminant	Sources
Micro-organisms	Contaminated humidifiers and air conditioners
Organic chemicals	Building materials, cleaning products, tobacco smoke.
Gases	Cigarette smoke, combustion processes.
Asbestos	Insulation, building materials.
Tobacco smoke	Passive smoking.

Office Air Pollution

Many of the 33 million US office workers face indoor air pollution every working day. The reduction in ventilation in tightly-sealed buildings is an ongoing hazard, as workers face constant exposure to dusts, vapors, gases, and allergens that cause eye, ear, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, skin rashes, and fatigue.



Why did over 2,000 people die in India, with an additional 50,000 due to arrive at the same destination by a slower and more tortuous route? As the old Wobbly song goes: "It's the boss and starvation wages." Over its long, turbulent history, our human society has degenerated to the level where profits are considered more important than life, human or otherwise.

One of those colorful and beautifully-printed magazines put out by our numerous corporations for the purpose of extolling their products had an interesting article replete with full-color photographs by a young woman lamenting the fact that there was so much "public land" in the United States not being "put to good use". She meant, of course, that this land was not being exploited by the corporations. She went on to say that much of this land has no aesthetic or recreational value.

To prove her point, the accompanying illustrations show vistas of desert and sagebrush: the same sagebrush your scribe used to watch herds of antelopes grazing, and the same desert where one is often amazed by the clearness of the air and the infinity of distance. One is angered at the thought that there are those who are anxious to convert that heritage of untold millennia into vistas of oil derricks and uranium slag heaps.

Out on the West Coast, the logging companies complain in their publications that environmental restrictions and unaccessible forest preserves contribute to unemployment. Yet these same publications exhort their colleagues to purchase more "labor-saving" machinery to save on labor costs. Grappling hooks make it possible to move logs without the handset choker cables. When the logging companies switch over to grappling hooks, the choker setters no longer have to drag their cables through the underbrush and cut their hands on the frayed cable strands. They can stand in line at the unemployment office and wonder how long their checks will hold out.

Was it patriotism that motivated Union Carbide to set up a plant in India, or was it a cheaper labor force and no environmental restrictions? It is this same kind of patriotism that motivates companies to market their DDT overseas when they are no longer allowed to peddle it at home.

The Pentagon's super-secret germ-warfare laboratory at Fort Detrick, Maryland has taken an interest in the acquired immune-deficiency syndrome, otherwise known as AIDS. They are said to be producing "massive quantities of a virus believed to play a role in the ailment", and they "anticipate a major project".

This encouraging bit of news comes from a prison publication in California called the *Vacaville Star*. It is published by the inmates at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, California (Zip Code 95696-2000). Subscriptions are \$5 for six issues. Send a buck or two for a sample copy, and ponder for yourself whether the right people are behind bars.

The Pentagonifs should get together with Union Carbide! Our beloved cowboy President has the chutzpah to call someone else an evil empire.

Two years ago, when this writer was in the Mission District of San Francisco admiring the many murals that give that district—and the city—a special flavor, he was impressed by one painted on the side of a three-story building facing one of San Francisco's rare open lots. It was a depiction of a massive industrial landscape complete with smoke, pollution, and the whole bit. Rising from the center of this industrial scene were the figures of a man and woman, clearly expressing a ray of hope. Though the subject matter of the mural was an unpleasant one, the Mexican artist who painted it conveyed a clear message of the possibility and necessity of a better future.

The building on which this mural was painted has been razed to make room for a condominium development, and another artifact that could have been a point of pride for future generations has bitten the dust in order to appease the voracious appetite of Mammon. In this scribe's own neighborhood there used to be a building with a beautiful mural on it. Now there is a driveway and a McDunghill's restaurant in its place. Such is the cultural inheritance that future archaeologists will have with which to ascertain what were the great achievements of 20th Century Freedom Land.

This is the kind of society we live in—where ownership determines what remains to give testimony to human heritage. The human race not only is defecating on its own cultural heritage, but is hell-bent on doing away with other forms of life as well. Ivory merchants are sitting on piles of tusks in Hong Kong and Japan waiting for elephants to become extinct so they can charge what they please for ivory. And already it is becoming more difficult to see antelopes on the land the young woman in *Exxon Magazine* says is "not being put to good use".

1984 is finally past, but it looks like 1985 won't be much of an improvement.

C. C. Redcloud

Around Our Union

ANN ARBOR: The People's Wherehouse IU 660 Job Branch has ratified a new contract (see article this issue), and the University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch has reportedly negotiated one too. The Ann Arbor branches have printed up baseball caps with the IWW label printed in black on red (available for \$5), and have been talking with fellow workers from two shops who are thinking of lining up with the IWW.

BOSTON: Several members of the Boston General Membership Branch distributed copies of the *Industrial Worker* and other IWW literature at a concert by FW Utah Phillips November 17th. The Branch also recently made a donation to assist Coca-Cola workers in Guatemala (see the December *IW*), and has sent letters to the company and to the Guatemalan Minister of Labor expressing its support for these fellow workers.

WINNIPEG: IWW members Norm Fontaine and Zenon Gawron recently served on the British Miners' Strike Support Committee, helping to organize a fund-raising rally co-sponsored by the Union of Unemployed Workers. On November 13th, Brian and Irene Dakin of Yorkshire, England spoke on behalf of the National Union of Mineworkers to an audience of 250 enthusiastic supporters at the Winnipeg Labor Centre, and \$4700 was raised to assist the families of striking British miners. Fellow Worker "Haywire Brack" concluded the program by leading those assembled in singing "Hold the Fort" and "Solidarity Forever".

FW Allan Bleich has been active with the Coalition for Aid to Nicaragua, which has sent thousands of dollars worth of goods donated throughout Manitoba to assist the Nicaraguan people.

CHICAGO: Chicago Wobs joined picket lines at the Board of Education and the South African Consulate in December. IWW members were among 300 people who turned out in bitterly-cold weather on December 6th to picket the South African Consulate, demanding that imprisoned union and anti-apartheid activists be freed and that racist rule in that country be brought to an end. Fifty copies of the *Industrial Worker* were distributed to picketers and passersby. At its most recent meeting, the Chicago GMB also voted to donate \$50 to the Keller Strike Fund.

NEW YORK: The strike against Keller Fish continues (see article last issue), and the National Labor Relations Board has issued a complaint against the W. F. Keller Company for its union-busting tactics. However it has refused to issue a directed-bargaining order, and an appeal is being prepared.

The New York Branch held its December meeting at the Florence Nightingale Nursing Home so that FW Minnie Corder, who first joined the IWW in 1919 and remains a member to this day, could participate. Minnie's dedication to the IWW and its principles and goals has been unshakable, and she has been distributing IWW literature to other residents and staff at the Nursing Home. (One worker recently joined up based on her efforts.) New York Wobs also joined a demonstration at the Phelps-Dodge Headquarters December 13th, expressing their solidarity with the striking Phelps-Dodge workers and helping kick off a national food drive to support them.

PEOPLE'S WHEREHOUSE IU 660 GETS NEW CONTRACT

Fellow Workers at the People's Wherehouse in Ann Arbor, Michigan have ratified a contract covering 37 of the shop's 45 workers. This is the first contract covering these workers, who joined the IWW in April 1983.

The People's Wherehouse, which supplies 500 food

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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL
ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

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General Secretary-Treasurer: Jon Bekken



Please send all copy to: *Industrial Worker*, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657. The deadline for all copy is the 10th of each month.

co-operatives in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, began cracking down on workers' rights in 1982, as the new management sought to increase productivity and install more-traditional worker-management relations. Wherehouse workers resisted these attacks, ultimately deciding that organizing into the IWW offered them the best opportunity to defend their interests.

The contract, which went into effect at the end of October, provides for wages from \$6.50 to \$7.30 per hour, with higher wages going to workers with children. It also provides for company-financed hot lunches and spring water, and access to all management information.

However, some longstanding grievances are not resolved by the pact. When negotiations began last year, the company rewrote the job descriptions of lead workers, transferring them into the ranks of lower-level management. When the company refused to return these fellow workers to the bargaining unit, the case was brought before the National Labor Relations Board, which ruled against us last June. At this point, it appears that only job action can restore the right of these fellow workers to union protection. Similarly, though some workplace-democracy issues are addressed by the new pact, much more remains to be done before self-management is regained.

The new contract was the subject of an article in the local paper, the *Ann Arbor News*, which observed that the pact "would raise the eyebrows of big corporation bosses".

FREE-SPEECH FIGHT IN TORONTO

On September 5th, 1984, Fellow Worker Brian Burch was sentenced to 18 months' probation and barred for six months from participating in any public demonstration or assembly—for "creating a disturbance by shouting". The sentence stems from an incident in which FW Burch objected to a police threat to break the arm of a photographer at a demonstration against Bill C-9, which establishes a civilian domestic spy agency in Canada. FW Burch has been specifically warned against joining picket lines, strike-support actions, or peace demonstrations.

Fellow workers are urged to send letters demanding a review of this sentence to Roy McMurtry, Attorney General of Ontario, Legislative Buildings, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2, Canada. FW Burch would appreciate receiving copies of your letters (and any replies) at 257B Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2L4.

In addition, the appeal of 14 peace activists, including FW Burch, for trespassing on the grounds of the Ontario Legislature began to be heard December 10th. On June 30th, 1983, the Queen's Park Peace Camp was broken up by police and the participants were found guilty because "there is no right of protest in Canada". This precedent has been used throughout Canada to deny the right to protest or leaflet on public land. Donations to help meet the costs of this appeal can be addressed to Peace Camp Appeal, c/o Andrew King in Trust, 149 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



1985 GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED

In a mail ballot counted December 2nd, IWW officers for 1985 were elected. FW Jon Bekken was elected to serve a second term as General Secretary-Treasurer. (A recall move against him was soundly defeated, receiving less than 7% of the vote.)

Elected to the General Executive Board were Fellow Workers Dave Bostock (Vancouver), David Jahn (Seattle), Mark Kaufmann (Ann Arbor), Nancy Kellerman (Boston), Gregory McDaniels (Minneapolis), John Spitzberg (Germantown, Maryland), and David Tucker (South Deerfield, Massachusetts). FW Richard Linster (Madison) will serve as first alternate.

These FWs work at a variety of jobs, from agricultural and construction work to printing and office work. They take office as the IWW faces renewed opportunities and sustained growth, as well as substantial difficulties.

In other business, two earlier decisions (to sell a piece of property left to the union and to abolish the moribund Industrial Organizing Committee) were reaffirmed, and an appeal of the 42nd General Convention's expulsion of Stan Jaroszinski was denied.

Chicago School Workers Strike

"Your first strike? Well, now you've been officially initiated into the Chicago Teachers' Union."

"Who is this guy Klaus the Board's brought in?"

"He's a union buster. They always start with cuts in medical benefits when they want to get rid of a union."

"We're better prepared this year."

"They're doing what they always do: They'll drag out negotiations until the pay we've lost striking equals the raises we're asking for."

A blast of whistles. "There goes X. She scabbed last time too."

"You're from the IWW? I thought you died out in World War I."

Seven times in the last 15 years the Chicago Teachers' Union has struck. In December the 40,000 members of the teachers' union and 17 other unions (formed into the Alliance of School Employees Unions) walked out, closing the city's 596 public schools and halting classes for 430,000 students. The strikers put up picket lines at the headquarters of each school district, knowing that lack of indoor heat in the freezing weather would keep the rest of the schools closed. The walkout occurred after the Chicago Board of Education began taking deductions from paychecks for medical benefits and failed to meet the unions' demands for a new contract with a salary increase and no concessions.

Things haven't changed much since the mid-'60s, when Chicago teachers decided they hadn't taken a vow

of the economic forces that are crushing it, it will have to organize world-wide. It will have to realize that there can be no privileged workforce isolated from the rest of the world. Exploitation anywhere undermines labor everywhere, and a new social scheme of things is needed.

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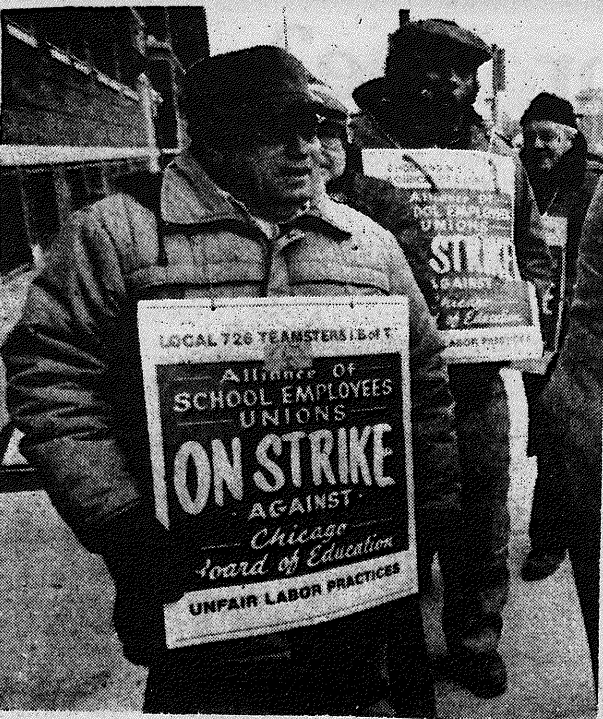
of poverty and deserved an annual contract laying out salaries, working conditions, and benefits. The Chicago Teachers' Union won a representation election, and in 1967 negotiated its first contract. Two years later, it conducted its first strike.

The rules of the game are for the Board of Education to poor-mouth all the way. Long before negotiations begin, Board members start talking about how little money is available for teachers. In recent years the Board has developed a variation of the poor-mouth ploy by constructing its budget in such a way that the Union has to fight to keep what it has. That way, the Board figures, the Union will have less time and energy to fight for better benefits and higher pay.

Partly to counter Board strategies, the Union specializes in making the "impossible demand". Last year the Union demanded a 10% pay raise and settled for half. The aim of the impossible demand is to get the Board to meet the Union partway, so the Union can achieve its private—but realistic—goal. In years past the Union has done well in what the news media call "marathon round-the-clock bargaining sessions", helped along by pressure from parents and politicians for a speedy settlement. In this session, pressures also mounted from merchants aghast at the thought of thousands of kids roaming their stores during the Christmas shopping season.

As we go to press, on the ninth day of the strike, the Board has made the strikers' unions a 4% raise offer and restored the threatened medical-insurance cuts, but is still disputing the demand of Local 143 of the International Union of Operating Engineers that the Board hold engineers' exams to determine who will be assigned to larger schools at higher pay. Board sources claimed they want those examinations to be tied to affirmative-action plans to increase the number of black and Hispanic engineers. The Operating Engineers say the Board has not held any exams, affirmative action or not, for six years.

plp



CUTS WAGES, KILLS JOBS

Zenith—the Pits

Zenith Electronics Corporation, long associated with consumer electronics, has been changing with the times, but at the cost of thousands of jobs in the US and low wages abroad. Though television remains its biggest profit maker, its share has been declining. Gone are the radios and stereo equipment that gave Zenith its reputation, to be replaced by computers, printed circuit boards, and other items of the new technology. And there have been other changes as well.

The Chicago-area-based firm has been shutting down plants and laying off workers in the US while opening more modern facilities in Mexico and Taiwan, where labor is cheap and costs are low. Out of a worldwide workforce of 35,000 only 9500 are employed in the US, and that number is declining. Some of the plants that have managed to stay open have turned into hulking dinosaurs, with under-utilized space and only a fraction of their former workforce.

The most recent development in Chicago has been the announced layoff of over half the current workforce of 1200, which began last November and is scheduled to continue till April. The reason for the layoffs has an all-too-familiar ring to it. Zenith has been staking much of its local production on the manufacture of decoder boxes for a Chicago cable-TV company called Group W. In July, Group W announced that it was replacing the Zenith boxes with Canadian and Japanese products, with a projected saving of \$8.5 million. Since Westinghouse, which is a customer of Zenith, has an interest in the Canadian company making the decoders, Zenith has not protested the Group W decision. Instead, it is leaving the "in-house" union covering the production workers (affiliated with the notoriously pro-boss National Federation of Independent Unions) to do the dirty work by protesting to City Hall and initiating a consumer boycott of the cable-TV services, which Chicago residents have been awaiting for years. No job actions or protests directed against the layoffs themselves have taken place or even been hinted at by the "union".

This follows a familiar pattern for Chicago, a city deeply affected by a world economy undergoing drastic transition. US Steel has completely abandoned its South Works plant, even after both government and union bent over backward to meet its demands. On Chicago's West Side, Playskool, the maker of Lincoln Logs and other toys, is pulling out with a loss of 700 jobs even after receiving a million-dollar low-interest loan under the guise of creating 400 new jobs. Playskool was a profitable company, but its new owners felt they would rather be elsewhere. The thousands of jobs lost by such actions are of little concern to companies that can always find new ways to make a buck.

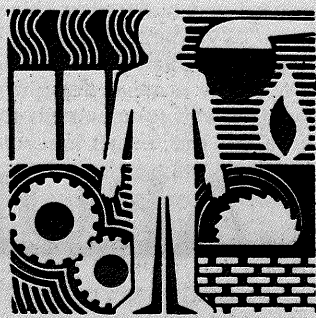
Outfits like Zenith like the conditions they find in Third World countries, with their low wages and helpful governments. According to *Progressive* magazine, workers at the Zenith plant in Reynosa, Mexico recently saw their wages drop from \$10 a day to \$3.31 due to devaluation of the peso. The 7,000 workers there reacted to this by organizing and then striking when one of their members was jailed. They then elected more-militant union officials, but Zenith refused to recognize them. A 13-day hunger strike and protest at Reynosa's central plaza was broken up by police who arrested the strikers and tortured at least one.

American unions have learned through harsh experience that the Third World is no longer merely the chief provider of raw materials for the manufacturing centers of the developing nations. They have seen the huge corporations spread their manufacturing processes around the world, yet the unions have not been able to break out of their old modes of operation. They have remained hand-tied by traditional perceptions of self-interest, and as a result have watched both their numbers and their strength decline.

If world labor is to have any future at all in the face

Fred Thompson's

labor in north america



Union news lately has been coming less from factories and more from colleges, hospitals, and even jails. At Stanford the Service Employees (SEIU) defeated an effort by the University to bust it and retained the 1300-member unit it has represented for 10 years. At Yale the 1500 members of the Federation of University Employees went back to work December 5th "to take the struggle inside". There had been both good student support for their strike and sympathetic strike action by maintenance and dining-hall employees—but just too many scabs in a town without many other job opportunities. So they went back to organizing wider solidarity.

They could draw courage from folks at the University of Iowa, where State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) had been defeated a year or so ago, but last fall won the right to represent 6,000 clerical employees scattered among its campuses in Ames, Des Moines, and Iowa City. The AFSCME also organized prison guards, and since one of its members got killed in an Illinois prison it has been demanding more guard towers and armed guards.

Service Employees also won a 1300-member unit at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center in Los Angeles. Recently the NLRB has been ruling that at both smaller hospitals and smaller radio stations, one union for all employees is preferable to several unless different crafts can show "a demonstrable disparity of interests". They would run into such a disparity with doctors, for they too have a union now. The Union of American Physicians and Dentists has picked up 14,000 members and is still growing. Its chief purpose is to protect members against replacement by lower-paid nurses and assistants.

Service Employees "925" has reached an agreement with Equitable Life Insurance covering the 34 female clerks who have been on strike at the company's Syracuse office for three years, and has called off its boycott. This pioneer effort to unionize office hands at Equitable was originally sparked by fear of VDTs.

It took only 17 days for Machinists to win at General Dynamics' Fort Worth plant (the first strike there since 1946), which turns out a new F-16 fighter every second day. They got a 4% lump-sum bonus for the first and second years, plus a 3% increase the third year.

The UAW got parallel terms at American-Marietta plants in Baltimore, Denver, and Orlando. This left the UAW aircraft division still fighting the Vought Corporation in Texas, where it has been on strike since March 1984. The UAW took its complaint against Kawasaki to the International Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development session in Paris last November, for

Kawasaki had threatened to close its Nebraska plant if the hands there joined the UAW.

International Harvester has sold out to Tenneco for \$430 million, and the business pundits blame it all on the long UAW strike against IH back in 1979 and '80, though IH at that time made over \$700 million on its \$8 billion in sales.

Railroad unions are insisting that freight trains keep hauling a caboose manned by brakemen, pointing to such incidents as that of a Conrail freight train hit by a truck 25 cars behind the locomotive, cutting the train in two. Until notified by radio what had happened, the engine crew kept going with the 25 cars. The railroad unions are also against plans to move coal as slurry via pipelines, saying such a pipeline projected for Maryland will cut out 1400 jobs.

From East Coast garment workers to Northwest lumber workers, there is a growing belief that if jobs are lacking they must have been sent somewhere else, either by importing garments from Mexico or by exporting logs to be made into plywood in Japan instead of at Weyerhaeuser. But if we built a high wall all around the US and let nothing in or out, couldn't we still put ourselves out of jobs by working too hard and too long for too little? That is what those guys over there are doing too, so our practical hope is to make unionism work world-wide. That's what the Industrial Workers of the World are all about.

In Everett, Washington, the lumber division of the Carpenters struck the Nord Door Company in July 1983, and 18 months later only 30 of the original strikers had returned to work. Before they struck, several hundred had been laid off because work had been funneled to a lower-wage non-union operation. Last November that grievance was won in arbitration, but the strike goes on.

H. J. Heinz closed its Star-Kist Tuna plant in California, laying off 1200 members of the United Industrial Workers because its request for a 35% tariff on imported tuna was denied. The union pointed to high profits, offered a one-year wage freeze, and noted that its members' wages are only a small fraction of production costs.

Food and Commercial Workers reached three-year contracts with eight Ohio grocery chains covering 14,000 workers. Early in November the union had threatened to strike Pick-N-Pay, but the other seven companies said they would close all stores if it did. The agreement gives no increase in the first year, bonuses of \$300 to \$500 in the second, and a 27-cent raise in the third. The vote for acceptance was about 2 to 1.

A thousand bellhops, busboys, maids, and waiters got turned out before Christmas at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel for a face lifting. Many of them had worked there for 20 years and don't expect to be re-hired or get similar jobs. They will draw severance pay for four months at the most. Also in Chicago shortly before Christmas, the educational-toy company Playskool reneged on its agreement to maintain a thousand or more jobs in return for the million-buck industrial-revenue bond the City had backed. Its parent company, Hasbro-Bradley, figures it can do all the work at its Springfield, Massachusetts plant.

The Federal Reserve reckons that in 1983 the top 2% of US households owned 28% of all household wealth, 71% of all tax-exempt bonds, 38% of all taxable bonds, 62% of all stock in private hands, and 42% of all investment real estate.

There's a world out there to rescue from these people.

Orchard Owners: Friend or Foe?

The preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World is our basic statement of purpose. The first line is a pretty cut-and-dried phrase: "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common." This statement is one of the cornerstones of our union, and has been controversial with some members as well as non-members. It has sparked debate among orchard workers in Central Washington, where seeds of a union have been sown this fall.

Since the IWW is a workers' organization, those opening lines from the Preamble must be examined from an economic perspective, as these two classes do have *some* things in common—such as mutual destruction in the event of a nuclear war. Because the orchard owners we work for are people, the personal perspective may blur the sharply-defined lines in those words.

Many owners are small farmers, living on the orchards they work hard in. They depend on employees, both seasonal and permanent. It's hard for may farm workers to think of some of these orchard owners, who are often deep in debt to the banks and packing sheds, as pure and simple bad guys in the fight for economic democracy. Some orchard workers develop good friendships with a particular farmer who treats them well and has work when needed. When we find a good orchard, where we can make good money and not have to put up with too much crap, we go back year after year.

Take the place I've worked at for a couple of harvests. It's about average size: about a hundred acres. The owners, Dick and Sue, live on the place. Dick's a smart business man who's pieced together one of the best orchards around from small adjoining blocks of trees. It's a good place to work. Our piece-rate wages are above average, we have small but comfy trailers to live in, propane is provided free for cooking and heating. There are hot showers, and a volleyball court for working out the kinks. We work from 7 am to 5 pm, with an hour off for lunch. We get all day Sunday and half of Saturday off for shopping, committing laundricide, and winding down.

Dick and Sue are concerned about the sprays they use, but also realize that if they don't use some of them their trees will suffer from disease and won't bear the right size, shape, or color apples to compete on the market—absurdly manipulated for the appearance of the fruit. These two personable people have won the loyalty of several pickers, and quite a few of them would not want to rock the boat.

They sometimes make good money off the fruit we help them grow and harvest, but the profits, as far as we can tell, go back into the orchard. For example, this year our crew picked 600 bins of Granny Smiths, a big tart green premium apple from New Zealand, Australia, and Chile, newly established on a few orchards and quite popular in the stores. Dick gets \$250 a bin, pickers get \$10. Dick says his costs come to about \$100 a bin: taxes, wages, mortgage, chemicals, water, equipment, and so on, though that still came to \$90,000 profit this year.

But the other varieties (red and golden delicious, Jonathans, Romes) don't make nearly that kind of money, and thus may be subsidized in bad years by the Granny harvest. The Harpers are planting new varieties of apples to reduce their reliance on the glutted red-delicious market. Some pickers are pleased with this, since the newer fruit will ripen over a longer period and result in a longer harvest, which could mean more money for us. The Harpers' house is modest, and they are not visibly living high on the hog. They rarely travel anywhere.

Dick definitely is the boss. We had a one-dollar wage cut this year on Grannies, with no ifs, ands, or buts. This caused debate among us pickers; we weren't happy with Dick's explanation that it made his bookkeeping easier to pay the same price for all varieties, even if pickers must be more careful when picking the more-valuable, easily-bruised Grannies. We previously got \$11 for picking a bin of them. But as a group, there wasn't much support for challenging him strongly. It was clear to us that anyone giving him a hard time stood a good chance of getting "sent down the road", and anyway there was the whole loyalty trip. He was having a bad harvest. The lousy crop was even worse than expected, and the reds had been a real bust this year. Not even veteran workers felt very secure, because of Dick's "I'm the boss" attitude. His callous attitude worried several of us this year.

But the small places aren't the worst culprits. Investor- and absentee-owned orchards are becoming more and more numerous. It's the usual case of the big business buying out the small one. In the Chelan district, the Naumes Company of California and the Hawaiian pineapple king Dole are buying up orchards and packing sheds. There are also plenty of long-established big orchards owned by one or a few people who neither live nor work there (and don't work anywhere else either), like Ducky Badger, A. Z. Well's, and Twin W. These are managed by hired flak catchers who might have been lowly pickers or tractor drivers once themselves.

It's a lot easier to see the division between workers and owners here, and the clash of economic interests. Fewer locals work regularly on these orchards, so the owners depend on rip-off labor contractors bringing seasonal crews up from Mexico and California. It's simpler to see that these are just businesses. It's the corporate farms and the chemical and wholesale-distribution companies that really influence this industry, and the market economy (the profit motive) that fuels it. I mean, the real idea isn't just to grow nutritious fruit, right?

The Promalin story is a good demonstration of how this industry is profit-motivated, and who makes the bucks. For some reason, length of season or whatever, the Virginia and Michigan orchards couldn't produce the classic oblong red-delicious variety that Washington made famous: the bread-and-butter crop out here. Their reds were rounder and didn't fare as well on the appearance-oriented apple market. Some enterprising chemical company came out with Promalin, a synthetic growth hormone, and it really helped those eastern reds look like the ones from Washington. The Washington growers were losing some of their market, and money as well. So Promalin was sprayed out west to help the fruit look more like itself than it did before, though of course it cost the farmers money to apply it.

A few years later, some growers noticed that the trees they had doused with this stuff didn't seem to produce the size or amount of fruit they used to. All those marble-size reds they grew this year were perfectly shaped, but were only good for juice, and there's no money in that for the farmers. So the farmers got the shaft, and so did the pickers. We had more work and less fruit. But the chemical manufacturers managed to have "a nice day".

Is it necessary for workers to organize on the smaller, family-run orchards where the boss puts in lots of hard labor too? Do these small farmers fit into the category of "employing class" referred to in the opening lines of the IWW Preamble? I mean, some of these folks are so nice to us, and they're victimized by the system too. But even if the largely-transient labor force had no interest in owning the means of production, there would still be things to organize for.

Organizers and supporters of an orchard workers' union have to recognize and understand the role of the capitalist profit motive in this industry. Sure, some farmers are rotten jerks anyway. But it's the market pressure that makes them *stay* that way. My boss, Dick, can be a pretty good guy. But the need to cover his costs in an industry he has little control of caused him to spray the orchard and our trailers this year with the new "wonder spray" Zyrame, a fungicide, without even warning the pregnant woman and her one-year-old in camp that day. It was now or never for him; the spray company's plane couldn't wait long enough for us to close the windows, move our rigs, or get everyone out of camp.

LABOR NEWS

BOGDAN LIS FREED FROM PRISON

On December 9th, Solidarnosc underground leader Bogdan Lis was freed from a Polish prison. Lis and three other underground activists had been arrested June 8th by secret police. At the time of his arrest, Lis was the Gdansk region representative on the Temporary Coordinating Commission of the Solidarnosc underground. His arrest prompted demonstrations by thousands of workers in Warsaw and Gdansk, and efforts by union activists throughout the world to secure his release. The IWW's General Executive Board was among those to write the Polish Government demanding his immediate and unconditional release. Word on the fate of the other underground activists arrested with Lis had not reached us at presstime.

SPANISH WORKERS PROTEST CUTBACKS

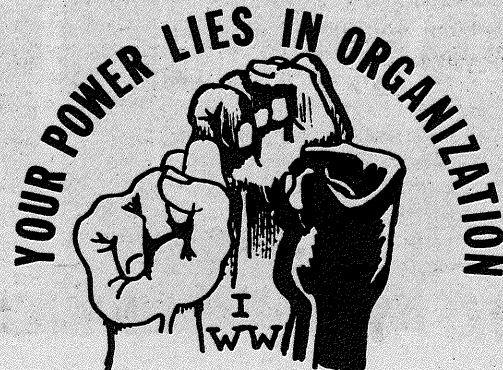
Left to itself, Spanish officials fear, inefficient Spanish industry would be overwhelmed by cheap imports from European Economic Community countries when the traffic walls fall on Spain's entry into the Common Market. So the socialist government of Prime Minister Gonzalez has begun to implement an industrial-reconversion plan to streamline the country's economy that involves the loss of some 60,000 jobs in private and State steel, textile, home-appliance, and shipbuilding industries by 1986.

Ten years ago, Spain was the world's third-largest shipbuilder. But then the supertankers grew extinct, the world went into general recession, and the big five State-owned Spanish shipyards, unable to keep up with Japanese and South Korean competition, lost \$213 million. The State conglomerate which includes steel, airlines, and other industries lost \$1 billion. So the Government fired several thousand steel workers, and workers in other industries are also scheduled for dismissal. About 17,000 shipworkers have been laid off for one year, after which their jobs will be eliminated unless shipbuilding demand somehow miraculously revives.

In protest, the country's communist and independent regional unions throughout 1984 led a national wave of strikes of escalating violence that turned into almost-daily confrontations with police. In late fall one person was killed in a clash between shipbuilders and police in Gijon, a port town near Oviedo in Northwestern Spain.

The Spanish Government—tentatively supported by business and its own socialist union organization, the General Union of Workers (to which about half of the country's small unionized workforce belongs)—has now promised to build new industries in the affected areas and to revitalize the lean ones with credits, tax breaks, and increased privatization. Local socialist mayors and political and union leaders, however, are left in the uncomfortable position of having to justify these cutbacks in the face of 18.6% unemployment.

Some of the regulars on the orchard were surprised, but Dick didn't apologize either. When a couple of us asked him about it, he just shrugged it off. "It's like the stuff you use for athlete's foot," he said, his hat and shirt speckled with the spray. Well, maybe so. But it was his attitude of irresponsibility—that it wasn't important to tell us—that was so disturbing. Even Mr. Nice Guy gets mean when the pressure's on and profits are threatened. It's the factors creating these pressures that we have to organize against in the long run. There's no way that we,



BUILD MILITANT UNIONISM

the farm workers, can even *begin* to control our working conditions until we recognize that even the "little guy" farmer doesn't have *our* best economic interests at heart, or our health.

Because of the farmers' position in this industry, they need to turn a profit to keep their farms going and tide them over during the bad years. They may not fit the stereotype of the big boss living off the workers' sweat, but the surest way for the farmer-business man to cut costs is to take them out of the workers' hides. I don't know how many orchard workers are interested in the revolutionary goal of collective ownership and operation of the fruit orchards, but there is sure as hell one thing we *do* want: more say in our wages and conditions. And it's John and Jane Farmer we've got to start talking to about it, and in an organized way. They may be "decent people", but just *how* decent they are we'll only know when the orchard workers' union gets rolling.

Red Goldenbruiser

INTERNATIONAL GM WORKERS' MEETING

General Motors workers from 13 countries met in Amsterdam in September as a first small step toward building international solidarity against the giant multinational corporation. Delegates attended from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, the US, and Yugoslavia.

By comparing experiences, the delegates found out how similar GM labor strategies are world-wide. These include pushing Quality of Life programs, introducing "labor-saving" new technology, and shifting production to poorer countries. The contrast between the small size of this initial gathering and the resources of GM was obvious to all, but even these few contacts were a beginning. The four Mexican delegates, from three different plants, had never met before. The Brazilian delegate did not know that the United Auto Workers in the US had been on strike against GM. "We would like to know about these strikes in advance so we can slow down production," he said, pointing out that GM Brazil makes engines for export.

The British delegation volunteered to host a second conference in 1985. A follow-up committee produced a tabloid (in five languages) called *GM Workers Voice* to report on the conference. Copies can be obtained from *Labor Notes*, PO Box 20001, Detroit, Michigan 48220.

THE UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

The conventional wisdom teaches us that it is permissible for people in a workplace to band together to bargain with an employer. Should the people ask for a better deal than the employer is willing to give, then the people have a right to stop work, to strike, and to advertise (within restrictions legislated in the country or locality) "their side" of the issue. This includes the right to picket, subject to the applicable portions of the restrictions aforementioned.

The conventional wisdom teaches us that there is nothing wrong with other workers from just anywhere offering to work under the conditions the employer is offering. The picketing striker is supposed to accept that in all calmness. Serenity is even better. He or she may lawfully speak in polite terms to a worker crossing the picket line about the strikers' side of it—if some gung-ho law-enforcement dude doesn't cut off even that *legal* right.

The conventional wisdom has fostered laws that say you must not refuse to handle or work on a product produced by scabs. But there's no way you can do that without sensing a sickening stench in your surroundings. The conventional unions have done little or nothing to resist.

It's high time a whole slew of us began to think individually and unconventionally of ways to resist.

IWW ideology, anyone?

Pervicacia

Sound of a Distant Drum

It is inevitable, with a snowless Christmas easing its way down the calendar, calling on all card-carrying believers to bend the knee in homage to the birth of Christ Glorious—and love those Georgian chants, but steady with the holy juice, Father; I'm driving—that God should be drafted into the British miners' strike on behalf of our earthly rulers to put the spiritual whammy on NUM president Arthur Scargill. It was left to Ted McKay, the North Wales coal miners representative, to speak on behalf of the Almighty in an interview headlined with a black banner on the front page of the right-wing *Standard*, declaring that "God will never forgive him (Scargill) for what he has done to the mining communities."

Whether God will forgive Arthur Scargill is a matter strictly between him and God. But what I do know is that McKay has opposed the miners' strike (*sotto voce*) from the very beginning, and was active in the collapse

of the North Wales miners' strike but a month ago.

One has a right and a duty to voice one's honest opinions, but there are times when the going is hard and bitter that one rejects the luxury of hawking one's conscience within the tents of the enemy or drinking from the same dirty chalice; and in 1984 there was that tiny minority of gutless working-class "leaders" who loved the fruits of office but feared the battle and lacked the animal common sense to refrain from whining in public.

The British coal miners' strike has by now won its place in working-class history, and for years to come academics will write long, learned, and earnest theses on it; but it is the men, women, and children of the mining communities who are living out that history in this bleak winter.

The right-wing press cried "Murder! Murder!" when a cab driver hired to drive a scab to work amid a cordon of police cars was killed by a block of concrete hurled

from a bridge. But this is the same press that shrugged off with only a handful of lines the death of a scab who was crushed in the darkness of a mine, a strike picket who was beaten to death on a picket line, and two small boys who died in a heap of falling slag while picking out pieces of rejected coal from the debris of pit workings to give warmth to the sick and the aged.

That the elder statesmen of Britain's Trade Union Council have betrayed the striking miners comes as no surprise, for the barroom generals of the TUC sold out the striking (nay, locked out) miners in 1926, and in 1984 they have once more struck their pathetic poses and crawled back into their warm offices in the heart of London. That the leaders of Britain's Labour Party also have sold out the miners is the simple logic of political power in these days when the main issue most politicians seem to consider worth pursuing is how to have a nuclear war without killing themselves along with everyone else. In the hard real world of a long cold mining strike, with the death toll mounting steadily, any fighting minority of the working class must be betrayed in hope of getting those worthless tarnished-liberal votes.

"Morality! Morality!" they cry, for one has been asked during those endless debates in coal-mineless London: "But should the lads accept money from the Libyan fruitcake Khadafi?" When men, women, and children were hungry in the American depression of the 1930s, they rightly queued at Al Capone's free soup kitchen, for food and money have no morality.

Take from the pimping gangster, take from the Mafia, take from the Russian Government with its slave camps and denial of all human freedom and dignity; but never make a secret of where you got it, and never let it be the golden rock of your struggle, and in taking it openly spit in the faces of those who gave it to you in the hope of corrupting you. Take it as money from the gutter, but never as a hiring fee.

As the British miners' strike moves into its most crucial and, one feels, its final phase, comrades, blazon this across your hearts: On those dreary cold picket lines daily facing the massed ranks of riot police, media, government, and treacherous political and trade-union leaders, they are fighting your battle as surely as the men and women in Poland.

Arthur Moyse, London

BRITISH COAL MINERS' STRIKE CONTINUES

The following communique was received from the International Secretariat of the Direct Action Movement, the British section of the International Workers Association:

"As we enter the 38th week of the historic British coal miners' strike, the outlook for the striking miners is indeed grim. The reformist trade-union movement in Britain has failed to support the miners in any real or practical way. The general congress of British trade unions, the TUC, meeting at their yearly congress... passed several motions in support of the miners, but as yet have failed to live up to their promises.

"As for the striking miners themselves, there has been some weakening in areas where the strike was not total in the beginning; but in the areas of Yorkshire, South Wales, Kent, Northumberland, and Scotland the vast majority of miners (over 100,000) have remained loyal to their union and their struggle.

"Since the beginning of the strike the police have been used in large numbers and with a great amount of brutality against the miners' picket lines. Well over 6,500 miners, miners' wives, and supporters have been arrested, and there are now about 100 unionists in prison in Britain. Nearly 40 of these are dock workers from the Cammell-Laird Shipyards on Merseyside (North West England) who were jailed for occupying the shipyards in an effort to defend their jobs.

"The National Union of Mineworkers and the various miners' support groups which collect money and food for the strikers have received great international support from unionists in North America, Australia, and most of the countries in Western Europe. The Dutch syndicalist union, the OVB, has donated 10,000 pounds. Coming from such a small trade union, this is indeed living proof of the kind of solidarity that would have been forthcoming if there were more syndicalist unions world-wide....

"The British miners must win their struggle. If they fail it will not only be a setback for the British trade-union movement, but will inspire other governments as well. The miners' fight is our fight."

Huge government bribes have convinced many miners to scab, though more than two thirds of Britain's coal miners are still on strike. The British courts have levied a fine of more than a quarter of a million dollars against the NUM, and have appointed a receiver to seize all the union's funds. Without strike funds, striking miners are experiencing severe poverty. International support must continue if the miners are not to be forced back to work by hunger.

Contributions should be sent in care of the DAM International Secretariat, 121 Railton Road, London SE 24, or the DAM International Miners Appeal, 147 Marlborough Avenue, Hull, England. Messages of solidarity should be sent to the National Union of Mineworkers, Saint James House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield, England. Funds should not be sent directly to the NUM, as these would be impounded by the British Government.

DID YOU NOTICE, DID YOU !!

SPANISH LEFT PROTESTS NATO: Tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered across Spain in early December to demand that their Government withdraw from NATO and dismantle the US military bases in their country. Organizers said 500,000 people turned out for the marches (called by pacifist, communist, and anarchist groups), but Government sources estimate the number at 50,000. Demonstrators in Madrid grouped themselves to form the words "Nato no", "bases out", and "neutrality" as they marched down Castellana Boulevard, the city's main street. In Barcelona 20,000 marchers chanted "Let's get out of NATO." In Valencia 25,000 protesters marched in a two-and-a-half-mile human chain. Opinion polls indicate that most Spaniards favor full withdrawal from NATO and the dismantling of the three US Air Force bases and one US Navy base in Spain. The country's socialist government has pledged to hold a referendum on the issue in early 1986.

US UNION MEMBERSHIP DROPS: Between 1980 and 1982, union membership in the US dropped 2.6 million to a total of 9.8 million, or 17.9% of the civilian workforce. Throughout the 1970s, the National Labor Relations Board received annual requests for over 8,000 union-representation elections, in which the percentage of union victories declined from 55.7% in 1970 to 45.7% in 1980. According to the NLRB only 4,320 representation elections were requested in 1982, of which unions won 43.8%, and 3,492 were requested in 1983, of which unions won 47.7%. The United Food and Commercial Workers organized 64,000 new members in 1983, about half of all AFL-CIO recruits for that year. About 80% of the new UFCW members were organized without asking for an NLRB election, the union using a variety of direct-action and pressure tactics to bypass Board and employer stalling tactics. The only people getting anything out of the NLRB's representation process these days are the lawyers.

STRONG MEASURES: The Reagan Administration, after an intense review of US policy on Chile, has decided to pressure General Augusto Pinochet into moving toward democracy and to explore the possibility of mediation between the military regime and its opponents. The pressures include increased contact between US and Chilean officials and increased US support for aid to

COMPARABLE-PAY VICTORY IN BRITAIN

Julie Hayward joined the apprentice cooks' program in the canteen of the Cammell Laird shipyard in Liverpool 10 years ago, fresh out of school. When she completed the program, four years later, she found herself serving meals to men at the yard, including some former schoolmates, who had a comparable level of training, easier jobs, and higher salaries. Hayward's friends in the yard agreed with her that it was a raw deal, and when she pointed it out to the boss, so did her union. Thus began a five-year battle that led in late 1984 to a ruling by an industrial tribunal that Hayward be paid at the same salary scale as Cammell Laird painters, joiners, and insulation installers, raising her salary from \$125 a week to \$164. She thus became the first person to benefit from new legislation allowing Britons to claim equal pay for jobs that are judged by an industrial tribunal to be of equal value.

The new legislation took effect on January 1st, 1984. During the summer attempts by sewing-machine operators for Ford Motors and women fish packers to take advantage of it failed to get past preliminary hearings because of rulings that the jobs at issue were not comparable. In Britain, the average female manual worker is paid about 74% of what male manual workers get. After several years of narrowing, the gap has begun to widen again.

No one is calling Hayward's case a landmark victory, however. Some British press commentators suggested that Cammell Laird, a State-owned company, had argued its case poorly, and speculated that most employers would be able to concoct more-plausible excuses for continuing sex discrimination. More importantly, the Hayward case is not a binding legal precedent, as British law does not allow class actions. Each appeal to an industrial tribunal

Chile, including a "yes" vote for a 125-million-dollar Inter-American Development Bank loan.

PROGRESS: "When the US came to the Philippines," says former Senator and current opposition leader Jose Diokno, "they faced the following social problems: first, widespread poverty; second, unequal distribution of wealth; and third, social exploitation as the dominant process that maintained the system. When the Americans departed, they left the same three basic problems and added two more: a totally-dependent economy, and a military situation so tied to the US that decisions on war and peace rest with the US and not with the Filipino people. Today... we are still faced with the same problems, and two more have been added: widespread corruption in and out of government, and we have lost our freedom to boot."

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries in fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever there is a strike or a lockout in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday fight with capitalists, but also to carry on production once capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

is decided on the particular facts of that case, and only those individuals willing to go through a long process of negotiation followed by official hearings and a ruling can claim relief. In practice, this has meant that almost all of the 20 cases in progress, involving some 60 women, are complaints with union backing.

The new law was forced on Britain by the European Commission, which won a judgment in the European Court of Justice in 1982 that Britain's Equal Pay Act of 1975 did not go far enough to satisfy European Economic Community law adopted in the early '70s. The 1975 ruling provided that everyone be paid equally for similar work. Such legislation helps women when men with similar or lesser qualifications are being paid more for essentially the same type of work, but would not help a cook who felt she deserved to be paid as much as a painter.

readers' soap box

The article "Well, Screen My Genes!" in the January *Industrial Worker* was excellent, and the cartoon of the scientists thinking of creating a "new race of heartier workers" matched it well.

The cartoon was science-fiction, but so were atom bombs. Seeing that science fiction has this gruesome way of becoming mundane fact, I think we should give some thought to the difficulties of unionization in that so-called fantasy world which is soon to come, and which might well make both George Orwell's 1984 and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* look like doll houses by comparison. (Atom bombs came so soon they caught even us science-fiction buffs off guard!)

It will soon be possible to do extra-bodily procreation in artificial wombs from spermo-clones and ova-clones, after which it may just be a matter of time before mass production in factories becomes the standard mode of procreation.

Workers can then be pre-gened for docility, and soldiers and cops for sadism. Corporations will then buy commodi-babe workers in lots of thousands and raise them via efficient "chicken farm" methods. These company-owned labor forces will drive all free labor from the market via a sort of "Gresham's law" of labor power, and that will be the end of *all* unionism.

The military will buy "war-dog" commodi-babes in bargain lots of thousands and start raising them as cadets before they even begin teething, ending any possibility of peace, for the "war puppies" will all be pre-gened to be real brats.

If this sounds too fantastic to be worthy of workers' serious consideration, let me say that if the radical labor movement had listened when the science-fiction writers began predicting atomic weapons just after the first atom was split in 1921, we might not have such things today.

In solidarity

George La Forest, X332008

MEDICAL WAGE SLAVE WRITES

I enjoy reading the *Industrial Worker*, and I agree with most of what I read in it. My favorite column is "Left Side". Keep it up, C. C. Redcloud.

I thought I would give you a view of things as they appear to a wage slave of the medical profession. I am a pharmacist, but I am not a supporter of our present health-care system.

Pharmacists have seen in one generation the effects of capitalism on their profession. My dad, a retired pharmacist, tells me that when he graduated from college most pharmacists had hopes of owning their own businesses, and prepared most of the medications they sold. At this stage in the life of capitalism, however, more and more pharmacies as well as hospitals are owned by corporations, and most pharmacists are no longer small businessmen, but wage slaves.

As with most other Americans, most pharmacists are brainwashed with the idea that if we just work hard and apply ourselves we can all be rich and successful. A few will get rich, but most of us just feel the screws as the boss tightens up our belts in order to maintain his present position.

The basis of the whole system is that health care is something to be purchased and is not a basic human right. It would seem that the least our government could do is provide national health-care insurance to keep us well so we can be ready to do the dirty work of the inmates of the Washington DC loony farm. It seems the way it stands now, if you have a good job and are able to keep it you are okay, for you are covered by insurance. Just don't get so sick you can't be cured in a short time, or you may find yourself fired because you can't wage-slave for the boss. Then your insurance will expire in 30 days unless you start sending the company several hundred bucks a month to pay for it.

A newspaper I read recently said there are about 34 million people in the United States who lack full-time, year-round health-insurance coverage. These include an estimated two million who are homeless. Of course you can probably get some help from the Starvation Army and other church groups if you're willing to humble yourself and dispense with whatever pride you have left.

In the hospital I work at, about 95% of all patients are covered by either insurance or Uncle Sam, and we avoid people without insurance when possible. Hospitals that stay out of the red usually transfer people out as soon as possible if they are without a ready supply of cash or insurance—usually to inner-city hospitals only an inch above bankruptcy. According to the papers, the number of persons reporting that someone in their family has been refused medical care for financial reasons runs to hundreds of thousands a year.

The capitalist insurance system is one of the greatest rip-offs ever, for it allows doctors, hospitals, pharmacists, automobile-repair shops, and others to charge prices so high that they would otherwise be laughed at. I personally am disgusted at the prices charged for health care where I work; and yet most of our pharmacy technicians make only six or seven dollars an hour, for we are considered by our boss *too professional* to have a union.

Most of us halfheartedly resent union members who may have little specialized training yet make more than many hospital workers. In my 15 years on the job we have never had an election, and only once have I seen union members out front trying to get new members. The unions have gotten fat and lazy, and obviously follow the American Way of looking out for themselves and ignoring those around them. If the unions continue their present ways, pretty soon they may have to look for members in Mexico or Japan.

It seems that with the exception of the IWW, unions have forgotten that a union is a socialist form and must therefore be opposed to capitalism by its very nature.

James Pinkerton

TIME FOR LUNCH

The French exploiter eats his meals leisurely. He prefers a Sancerre with his oysters, a Chablis with his sole, a decent Bordeaux with his steak: not exactly the sort of wines to keep for the next generation.

The American exploiter prefers two martinis with his 65-dollar lunch, and takes it out on his income tax. He claims that he needs that kind of lunch for his business.

The wage slave eats at the nearest cheap restaurant and stands in line with his fellow wage slaves. When he finally gets waited on he gulps down his sandwich and coffee or Coke and goes back to his monotonous job putting in Bolt 210 or whatever, though he never knows why he puts it in or where it comes from.

Fellow workers, we need the four-hour day to have time to digest our food.

Yours for *universal* workers' control of industry, and a chance for a decent lunch.

Minnie F. Corder

WOMEN IN THE IWW

Whoa! In the "Around Our Union" section of the December *Industrial Worker*, someone from Bellingham was cited as commenting that there are "not that many women in the [IWW]." At the University Cellar, currently the Union's largest job branch, 40 of 75 bargaining-unit workers are women, including the branch secretary-treasurer, half the stewards, and two of the three workers who did most of the negotiating on the latest contract. I'm under the impression that the ratio is similar at the People's Warehouse Branch. So women are playing the major role in the Union's two largest job branches. I'd be interested to hear from Chicago on the breakdown of Union membership as a whole by gender. I suspect the idea that there are "not that many women in the [IWW]" is a myth.

Solidarity,

Fred Chase, X331591

Coors Boycott

In the face of a nationwide boycott called by the AFL-CIO in 1977 after Coors busted a local union in its plant which struck over a variety of issues including workplace rights (such as the company's use of lie detectors), Coors has been desperately trying to expand its marketing area in order to maintain sales.

When the boycott began, for example, Coors was Number 1 in the Colorado market; it now has slipped to third, with less than 22%. Coors has added more than a dozen states to its market in response to these falling sales, only to find that despite a massive advertising and promotional campaign costing more than 10% of gross revenue annually, it is unable to secure a substantial market share.

As Coors enters new states, sales initially hit high levels, but immediately begin to drop as the boycott effort gets under way and consumers become familiar with the product.

IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received in November 1984)

Dagmar and Toivo Halonen (Cleveland, OH) (in memory of Ed Spira)	25.00
George LaForest (Rockford, IL)	5.00
Michael Stoops (Portland, OR)	1.00
John Illo (Shippensburg, PA)	2.00
Semel/Poulos (New York, NY)	25.00
Tim Fowler (Seattle, WA)	1.00
Jack Rosenquist (Boston, MA)	2.00
Mitchell Pittillo (Fort Leavenworth, KS)	10.00
Switchman (Long Beach, CA)	10.00
Edison Dudley (Bellare, OH)	33.00
Ruby Peterson (Half Moon Bay, CA)	22.40
Steve and Nancy Kellerman (Boston, MA)	10.00
Phoebe Spinrad (Columbus, OH)	10.00
Semel/Poulos (New York, NY)	25.00

TOTAL 181.40

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

UTAH PHILLIPS ALBUM

Utah Phillips' album of IWW songs, "We Have Fed You All for a Thousand Years", has finally been released in the US by Rounder Records, and is available from the IWW. The record comes complete with a 12-page booklet of lyrics, IWW cartoons, and commentary on the songs.

On the album's Canadian release two years ago, Fellow Worker Dean Nolan's review in the *Industrial Worker* noted:

"Close to two years ago, public workers in BC went on strike, and Utah traveled there to perform a benefit for them. The concert was recorded and makes up this album.... It is 100% Utah, down to the quack he uses to accompany the 'Mr. Block' song.... These really are the songs and stories of the IWW, and although they date back to the early part of the century, he makes it clear that the ideas behind them have just as much meaning today as ever."

The record will be available for \$8.50, post-paid, after February 1st.

LITERATURE!

Practical and Informational:

() Organizing Manual	.75
() Collective Bargaining Manual	2.00
() Labor Law for the Rank and Filer*	2.50
() Inflation: Cause and Cure	.25
() One Big Union (About the IWW)	1.25
() Workers' Guide to Direct Action	.35
() The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin)	.75
() Unions and Racism	1.00
() IWW Preamble and Constitution	1.00
() Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety	.50
() A Quiz on You and the Arms Race	.10
(10 copies .75; 100 copies 3.00, 2.50 per additional 100)	

Music and Poetry:

() IWW Little Red Songbook	1.75
() The Rebel Girl (sheet music)	.50
() Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music)	.50
() Didactic Verse (by Henry Pfaff)*	2.00
() The Grievance*	.95

Historical:

() The IWW: Its First 70 Years (hardcover)	15.00
() The IWW: Its First 70 Years (paperback)	4.95
() Founding Convention of the IWW* (ND)	15.00
() History of the IWW in Canada	.50
() Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter	1.00
() Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary*	5.95
() Autobiography of Mother Jones*	5.95
() The Right to Be Lazy*	2.25
() Touring Pullman* (ND)	1.75
() Haymarket Revisited* (ND)	3.00
() Joe Hill (by Gibbs Smith)* (ND)	11.95

* These items are offered for sale as a convenience to the readers of the IW. They are not official IWW literature, and the union takes no position on their content. The IWW does not engage in direct or indirect alliances with political or anti-political groups or sects. Quantity discounts are available on only some of the above titles.

Buttons:

() Build Militant Unionism	.75
() For More of the Good Things of Life	.75
() General Defense Button	.35

Posters:

() Joe Hill	5.00
() General Strike	5.00
() Huelga General	5.00
() Draftees of the World Unite	5.00
() Four Hours Work for Eight Hours Pay	5.00
() Fat Cat	5.00

LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW Literature List, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery. (ND) indicates that no discount is available.

AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL IWW GROUPS:

A Workers' Guide to Direct Action: 50¢. New York IWW, PO Box 183, New York 10028.

Fellow Union Member: 10¢ each; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢; 16 to 500, 3¢; over 500, 2¢. Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405.

Introduction to the IWW: 10¢ each; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance. San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.

Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication): \$10 a year. Vancouver IWW, PO Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 4P3.

Please send all orders (unless otherwise designated) to: IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (USA).



Work Less!!!

A *Shorter Workweek in the 1980s*, by William McGaughey, Thistlerose Publications, \$6.95

The average workweek in the United States stood at 58.4 hours in 1901, despite the eight-hour-day struggles of the 1880s. By 1948, after two decades of renewed struggles, the average workweek had been reduced to 42 hours. It has stood at that point, with minor fluctuations, ever since.

In this book, William McGaughey argues that the labor movement should again campaign for a shorter workweek, in order to reduce unemployment, maintain economic growth, and enable workers to live fuller and more satisfying lives. One by one, he examines the arguments advanced by opponents of a shorter workweek, presenting a wealth of data and arguments to show their weaknesses.

But not only does McGaughey demonstrate that a shorter workweek is practical; he also examines the consequences of the failure to win such reductions in working hours. Changes in output, productivity, and employment patterns are inter-related, he argues, and the failure to win shorter working hours as productivity increases has led to economic stagnation and shifts of employment from productive (and relatively well-paid) labor to supervisory and service-sector jobs. With productivity increases since 1950 averaging 2.6% a year, productivity is now more than double the 1950 level, and has increased more than fourfold since 1910.

Yet are we living twice as well as we were in 1950? McGaughey thinks not. Instead, he argues, workers have been diverted into low-paid, non-productive jobs, while corporate profits have soared. Comparing occupational categories in 1950 and 1978, he shows that employment increases have been enjoyed chiefly by managers and administrators, clerical workers, and service workers. Most of these jobs cannot be meaningfully described as productive, despite the fact that workers in the latter two categories are often mercilessly exploited; instead, they are devoted mainly to facilitating and keeping track of the flow of money and profits.

Moreover, for many workers the workweek is actually increasing, as workers scramble for overtime or second jobs in a desperate attempt to maintain current living standards. Since 1948, McGaughey shows, the proportion of workers putting in more than 48 hours a week



has been steadily increasing. Only the growth of part-time work (which has absorbed many workers unable to find full-time jobs, and therefore struggling to get by on reduced wages) has prevented the workweek from actually increasing in the last 25 years.

Surveys show substantial interest among workers in shorter and more flexible workweeks, and McGaughey shows that these could be achieved without damage to the economy. Indeed, when the 1973 miners' strike led the British Government to impose a three-day workweek for nearly four months, industrial production declined only 6%.

The US labor movement pushed for shorter working hours throughout the '30s, '40s, and early '50s, making substantial gains in some industries. But since the late '50s the business unions have not even talked about shorter hours, let alone fought for them. McGaughey argues that the time to fight for and win reduced working hours is now, suggesting an immediate four-day, 32-hour workweek as a starting point.

Many Wobblies will be put off by McGaughey's illusions about "progressive" businessmen that pervade this book, and by his contentions that a shorter workweek could benefit both workers and bosses, as well as by his consequent reliance on legislation and lobbying (instead of direct action on the job) to win shorter hours. The book is also weakened in several places by dubious arguments aimed at showing that workers can win shorter hours without injuring their bosses (an injury that need not concern us). Yet at a time when so many in the labor movement refuse to raise this vital issue, McGaughey offers a wealth of data and arguments to prove that the fight for a shorter workweek can be won.

Jon Bekken

Wars and Rumors of Wars

Even as most of the Pentagon prepares for World War III, some of the five-sided monstrosity's specialists in "conflict management" are busily preparing for World War IV. The day after "the day after", just in case anyone is still around.

"The United States must maintain in reserve, under all circumstances, nuclear offensive capabilities so that the US would never emerge from a nuclear war without nuclear weapons," states *1984 Defense Guidance*, the Pentagon's fundamental policy document. Reserve forces, the paper adds, must be "sufficient for trans- and post-attack protection and coercion".

"But according to the old way of thinking, the whole kitchen sink—including the strategic—was used up before the end of the general nuclear war," says an official responsible for reviewing the Military's Single Integrated Operating Plan (SIOP). "In the new doctrine, the reserves are truly withheld from the SIOP so they can be used later for bargaining and coercion," explained the analyst who spoke to Frank Greve of the Knight-Ridder newspapers on condition that he would not be identified.

How will the Government protect its bargaining chips during the initial fusillade? An attack submarine laden with cruise missiles would be sequestered beneath the

Arctic icecap for the duration of World War III. When the shooting stopped, the sub would emerge to lay down the law to any remaining Soviet leaders.

"It's one of the few really good deterrent concepts," says Robert Sherman, who advises several members of Congress on military matters. "You let the other guy know that no matter what happens, we're still going to be able to make his rubble bounce a bit."

Now doesn't the thought of that make you feel safer?

FRANK LITTLE, IWW MARTYR

Information is wanted on biographical details and his Native American tribal affiliation, for possible publication. Please write to Virgil Vogel, 1819 Maple Street, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

DIGGING OUR PAST

Back in 1914, Frederick G. Mills (who later became a professor at Columbia University and president of the American Statistical Association) traveled as a hobo in California to keep track of the Wobblies. This was part of his studies under Carleton Parker. Gregory Worrol, another economics prof, has written interesting essays drawn from Mills' reports of life among the Wobblies. One of these essays appeared in the Summer 1983 issue of *California History*, and the other in the Summer 1984 issue of *Labor History*. These amusing and apparently honest accounts can be found in all major public libraries.

EXPELLED

Stan Jaroszowski of Tucson, Arizona has been expelled from the Industrial Workers of the World by the 42nd General Convention of the IWW.

IWW Directory



ALASKA: Anchorage: Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Juneau/Douglas IWW, Barry Roderick, Delegate, PO Box 748, Douglas, Alaska 99824. Fairbanks: Chris White, Delegate, Box 72938, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver IWW, Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, BC V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 430-6605. Job Problems Hotline: (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW, PO Box 941, Nelson BC V1L 6A5, Canada.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Pat McConkey, Delegate, 1868 Columbia Road Northwest (610), Washington DC 20009.

CALIFORNIA: Little River IU 130, c/o Graham, PO Box 302, Little River, California 95456. San Diego: Sandra Dutky, Delegate, 4472 Georgia, San Diego, California 92116, (619) 296-9966. R. M. R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego, California 92103. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch: PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140. Santa Clara Valley IWW: PO Box 9249, Suite 194, San Jose, California 95157. Oakland: Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland, California 94609, (415) 658-0293.

FLORIDA: Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey, Florida 33552.

GEORGIA: Elton Manzione, Delegate, 729 Pulaski, Athens, Georgia 30603, (404) 353-1218.

GUAM: Guam IWW Group, Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.

IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlatch, Idaho 83855. Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers Affinity Group, IU 120, Box 764, Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

ILLINOIS: Champaign-Urbana IWW, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign, Illinois 61820. Chicago General Membership Branch, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm.

INDIANA: IWW Delegate, PO Box E-206, Richmond, Indiana 47374.

KANSAS: Lawrence: Jovan Weismiller, Delegate, 917 Ohio, Apartment A, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Wichita: IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita, Kansas 67201.

KENTUCKY: Louisville IWW Group, Delegate, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40204.

LOUISIANA: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 52282, New Orleans, Louisiana 70152.

MANITOBA: Winnipeg IWW, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3S7, Canada.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch, PO Box 454, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Meetings first Sunday of each month, 522-7090 or 625-5107.

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor/Detroit General Membership Branch, c/o Kaufmann, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Copper County: Robin Oye, Delegate, PO Box 392, Hancock, Michigan 49930. Grand Rapids: IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. People's Warehouse IU 660 Branch, c/o Kozura, 2237 Shadowood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. University Cellular IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis/Saint Paul IWW, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall (3), Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104.

MONTANA: Clark Fork Valley IWW, PO Box 8562, Missoula, Montana 59807, (406) 728-6053. Thompson Falls: A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls, Montana 59874, (406) 827-3238.

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico General Membership Branch, PO Box 4872, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196.

NEW YORK: Buffalo: Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo, New York 14207, (816) 877-6073. New York City General Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York 10028. Rego Park: Jackie Painish, Delegate, 99-12 56th Road (5-J), Rego Park, New York 11374, (212) 868-1121.

OHIO: Dayton IWW Group: "Reuben" Slaton, Delegate, PO Box 26381, Dayton, Ohio 45426.

ONTARIO: Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4L 2L4.

PENNSYLVANIA: Tom Hill, Delegate, PO Box 41928, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Harbinger Publications, IU 450 Job Shop, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803) 254-9398.

TEXAS: Austin: Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield (B), Austin, Texas 78703, (512) 472-7854. Houston: Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston, Texas 77087, (713) 921-0877.

WASHINGTON: Bellingham General Membership Branch, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227, (206) 671-5209. Meetings third Sunday of each month, 6:30 pm. Orchard Workers Organizing Project, Box 2223, Chelan, Washington 98816. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405, (206) 272-8119. Walla Walla: IWW, PO Box 392, Walla Walla, Washington 99362, (509) 525-0066.

WISCONSIN: Madison General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 9, c/o 432 Sidney, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

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Coca-Cola Update

The International Union of Food and Allied Workers Associations (IUF), in its Coca-Cola Information Bulletin Number 13, dated November 29th, 1984, informs us that the Coca-Cola Company has sold its bottling plant in Guatemala City (see the November 1984 *Industrial Worker*) to a group of Guatemalan investors led by a Mr. Porras. It also informs us that this group is attempting to undermine the agreement reached between Coca-Cola and the bottling workers' union (STEGAC: Sindicato de Trabajadoras de Embotelladora Guatemalteca) on May 27th of this year in Costa Rica.

A STEGAC communique describes the situation as follows:

"With its release of November 9th, Coca-Cola seeks to evade its responsibility in the EGSA problem.

"Three meetings were held with Porras, who declared them to be informal, and who raised the following issues:

"He reserved the right to re-open the plant with the number of employees he believes to be adequate.

"The union and the collective agreement are no longer in effect since we collected our indemnities.

"He suggests cuts in wages and benefits.

"He claims not to have knowledge of the letter of understanding (the May 27th agreement).

"We asked Porras to request that Coca-Cola set up a meeting between STEGAC, IUF, Porras, and Coca-Cola. Porras replied that Coca-Cola did not want such a meeting....

"If we accept his conditions, it may be possible to re-open in February...."

The STEGAC communique went on to point out that a court decision in July declared the closing of the plant to have been illegal, ordering that the plant be re-opened and that workers were entitled to back pay from the date of closure, and that the union consequently demands: (1) re-opening of the plant at the earliest possible date on the basis of the letter of understanding and according to the court ruling; (2) payment of our salaries and other benefits from the date of closure."

The union also requests that should no solution be found soon, or should Coca-Cola refuse a meeting, the international boycott campaign be resumed.

For its part, the IUF has requested a meeting with Coca-Cola between December 14th and December 20th to clarify the May 27th agreement. As we go to press, we have no further information. Once again letters of protest should be sent to the Coca-Cola Company, PO Drawer 1734, Atlanta, Georgia 30301, and letters of support to STEGAC, 24 Calle 6-01, Zona 11, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Mike Hargis

SEXUAL BIAS IN WASHINGTON DC

Washington's flourishing international organizations, employing 20,000 people, are under increasing pressure from the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to upgrade the status of their female employees. Almost 90% of the secretaries and clerical personnel at the World Bank are women, but women occupy less than 3% of its "senior-level" positions. At the Inter-American Development Bank there are 33 jobs in the "executive" category, only one of which is held by a woman.

International organizations are exempt from the anti-discrimination law, just as Congress was until 1977, when House aid Shirley Davis won a sex-discrimination case against her former boss, Representative Passman of Louisiana. While the international agencies are still outside the reach of US legislation banning sex discrimination and other forms of bias in labor practices, Federal law (the Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976) does cover about 7,000 local people recruited to work at the 147 foreign embassies in the US capital.

Improving the Goods

All that is produced for society is made by working folks. The car you bought that doesn't run worth a damn; the house you live in with the leaks from the roof; the road you drive on with all the potholes; that oil tanker that broke up off the coast. All these are things made by working people. Why are they not built right? Because we produce these goods and services for profit, and not for use or out of necessity. Just ask yourself: Do you do your job as if you were doing it for yourself? Almost everything that is made by industry is lacking in quality, and most of it is unneeded and must be sold to the people through a process of capitalistic psychological manipulation and commercialization. Fur-

MAY DAY IS COMING...

...And our May 1985 issue will carry May Day greetings. If we get enough, we'll put out a 12-page issue for the occasion. Rates for these greetings will be a nominal \$6 for one column inch, \$20 for four column inches, \$35 for a half-column, and \$80 for a half-page. If your greetings ad requires a lot of typesetting or layout or a reduction or enlargement, please add \$5.

This paper carries no commercial advertising, even if smuggled into a May Day greeting.

The deadline for May Day greeting ads—or other copy intended for the May issue—is March 12th. The issue will be mailed out in plenty of time to reach all readers by May Day, so if you want extra copies of this issue to pass around let us know by March 22nd (and enclose 10¢ per copy with your order).



Members of the Strike Committee of the Natchaug Hospital local of the New England Health Care Employees Union pose in their black-cat shirts on the eve of last year's strike. Mental-health workers, LPNs, and dietary employees struck the private psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of Willimantic, Connecticut, selecting the classic IWW symbol of the black cat to underscore their willingness to endure a prolonged strike if need be. Natchaug

Hospital finally settled after other unionized employees, including registered nurses, demonstrated their solidarity. Under the new contract, base wages will increase by 49% over three years. Senior employees complained that their wages would still remain substantially lower than industry standards, and were displeased with union negotiators for locking them into a three-year contract after a closed-door session with management. (JL)

The Imperial Technocrats

The economic life of developing countries is increasingly shaped by people trained at Harvard and similar places to see things the way the big international banks see them, according to *IBON Facts and Figures* (PO Box SM-447, Manila). *IBON* lists as examples the ministers and administrators of the Philippine economy, and notes that they have usually held private corporate posts on the way up.

If they rise far enough in the hierarchy, they get further training from such trans-national bodies as the IMF Institute and the World Bank's Economic Development Institute, where they rub shoulders with counterparts serving the trans-national corporations in other nations.

Is a political upset in the Philippines or any other country able to oust them? And if they are ousted, will they be replaced by other spare parts cast in the same mold, but perhaps conditioned to serve different trans-nationals?

IBON refers to these Philippine experts as "technocrats"—a term used 50 years ago to refer to a North American movement that purported to apply engineering to the pursuit of general well-being. For a while the IWW backed it, till it drifted off into the notion that industrial democracy would be a nuisance to its esoteric guidance, and following that line developed fascistic tendencies. The trans-national "technocrats" of today perform a two-faced function: applying science and research to global production and living problems, but doing this in the way that will best serve the big corporations. In-

cluded in their expertise is the art of using workers in one country to undermine the efforts of fellow workers in other lands.

To cope with these imperial technocrats, we need to develop both global economic research and global labor solidarity. It will not be easy to convince specific groups of workers in different areas that their interests are best served by looking out for the collective good of workers everywhere. Yet an understanding of that fact is necessary both for practical union bargaining in the modern world, and to enable the human race to survive its capacity to destroy itself. That makes building the IWW the most important thing you can do.

FT

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room. This is a case in which workers were forced to commit capitalist sabotage.

Another case of capitalist sabotage involved the Barnwell Nuclear Reprocessing Plant. This plant will be used to reprocess nuclear wastes, and if they have a 1% leakage while in operation, it could mean the evacuation of five states. I met a welder who used to work there, and he told me they were using Japanese seam pipe (which is very brittle, and the seam sometimes splits like a zipper). He also told me that they only x-ray check every ninth weld.

These are a few examples of how the bosses' quest for profit interferes with quality and jeopardizes the health and safety of others. The reality of capitalism is that cheap work means more profit for the bosses. They do not want to make things that last, because then they could not charge you to have them repaired or sell you parts or a whole new product. Thus logic tells us that it is in the interest of the working class to improve the goods, because what we make as workers we consume as consumers. Also, it is we the workers who must use the tools and the machines; it is we who must sail the ships and drive the trucks; it is our lives that are at stake. Also, all that is produced by the workers is rightfully theirs, by virtue of having produced it.

There are some cases in which what we produce is harmful to us and the rest of the world. In these cases it is in the common interest of the working class to cease all work in that industry and use direct action to force the conversion of that industry into the production of useful goods. Any way you look at it from a working-class viewpoint, it is essential to society and revolutionary progress that working folks create that which you produce as if you were creating it for yourself! You are!

Arthur J. Miller, IU 320